

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1 – 20. Please append new claims 27 – 36 as follows:

- 1, 2, 5, 27. A seal for use in a solid oxide fuel cell comprising a matrix of ceramic fibres and a plurality of solid particles interspersed between the ceramic fibres, wherein the fibres and solid particles are 1, 2, 5 unsintered and wherein the fibres and particles combine to form a flexible and compressible seal [which is substantially but not hermetically gas-tight.]
- 4 28. The seal of claim 27 wherein the fibres are randomly oriented.
- 5 29. The seal of claim 27 wherein the seal is compressed prior to installation into a fuel cell stack.
- 2 30. The seal of claim 27 wherein the solid particles comprise ceramic particles.
- 6 31. The seal of claim 30 wherein some or all of the ceramic fibres comprise alumina, zirconia, titania, magnesia or silica.
- A 7 32. The seal of claim 31 wherein some or all of the ceramic particles comprise alumina, zirconia, titania, magnesia or silica.
- 8 33. The seal of claim 27 wherein a substantial portion of the solid particles have a particle size less than about 1 micron.
- 9 34. The seal of claim 33 wherein the solid particles comprises a first portion and a second portion wherein the average particle size of the first portion is larger than the average particle size of the second portion.